

**Centre County PAWS, Inc.**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 22, 2020, 5:45 – 7:00 pm**  
**Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

Board Members/Staff Attending: Dave Abler (presiding), Lisa Bahr, Maureen Casey, Mike Chilcot, Bob Conn, Reenie Ferretti, Ginny Ishler, Ryan Macaluso, Ginny Newman, Heidi Petruzzi (recording), Joan Ritchie, Alicia Starr, Susan Strohm, Colleen Williams, Monica Wright

PAWS Members and Guests Attending:  
Heather Mannion

Dave Abler called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm.

**Member Questions and Comments**

None

**Action Item - Approval of August 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes - Heidi Petruzzi**

Ginny N. moved to approve the minutes. Joan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Officer Reports**

President Report - Dave Abler did not have a report.

Vice President Report – Ryan Macaluso did not have a report.

Treasurer Report – Reenie Ferretti did not have a report.

Recording Secretary Report – Heidi Petruzzi did not have a report.

**Executive Director Report** – Lisa Bahr emailed the link to her report. The new format provides a snap shot of PAWS operations and activities.

*Operations* - August was a record adoption month, with 105 adoptions. For the safety of staff and volunteers, PAWS has switched back to adoptions by appointment only due to the significant local surge in COVID-19 cases. Lisa expressed her and Colin's thanks to Joan for being the new official vet of record for PAWS. She also noted that COVID related protocols at local veterinary clinics and practices are making it difficult to schedule PAWS animals for spays, neuters, and appointments.

*Personnel* - Lisa expressed her thanks to Jeannette Macaluso for her help with the weekly management training meetings for the new management team. There also are operations team meetings once or twice a week.

*IT* - Lisa thanked Bob for fixing her computer and for working on a recent issue with the phones. She gave a shout out to the Marketing Team, Heather Mannion, Kaitlin Grau, and Alicia Starr, for the major work they have completed on the Fur Ball web site.

*Events* - The August Bingo brought in \$6,150 and the next Bingo will be on November 6. The brick paver project will launch immediately after the Fur Ball. It will culminate in a virtual event in December and an in person event in 2021. Lisa has a rendering of the area to be used and she is waiting for pricing confirmation from Landserv. Reenie asked about the results of brick pricing survey that was sent to PAWS volunteers. About 50 people responded, with most respondents favoring \$100 or \$150 per brick.

*Development* - The Target Red Circle fundraiser ends on September 30; Lisa reminded everyone to vote if they have not done so already. Lisa applied for two Centre Foundation COVID relief grants, one in the small business category and one in the non-profit category. Ginny N. was pleased to see that the most recent Amazon Smile donation was in the amount of \$717 and she wondered how PAWS can promote more use of the program, since so many people make purchases through Amazon right now. Lisa noted that PAWS has suggested the program to volunteers as a way that they can help PAWS from home.

*Finance* - The August 2020 income statement does not include any mailer donations, but the August 2019 numbers do include mailer income. Taking that into consideration, August 2020 looks pretty good thanks to COVID grants and the PPP loan. PAWS events that were most impacted by COVID are the summer program, bingos, Fur Ball, and dog adoptions. Spay/Neuter expenses were high, but still are within budget overall. Usually it takes about two months to reach the mailer goal, but after two weeks, the mailer is about 1/3 of the way to the fundraising goal. Chris received notification that PAWS will receive an estate gift in September, meeting the planned giving budget for the year.

Dave asked about the impact of adoptions by appointment on adoption income. Lisa thinks that the impact will be minimal since adoption applications are available online now and that process appears to be why adoption applications surged in July and August. The Adoption Teams are working hard to keep up with the applications. Cat adoptions should continue to do well. Dog adoptions should maintain the same rate if transports can continue. Several puppy adoptions are waiting to be finalized due to the hold up with spays and neuters. Susan and Ginny I. are pleased with the online adoption process and how well volunteers are keeping up with the traffic.

Lisa and Brian are planning how COVID will impact the 2021 budget. They may develop multiple budgets, forecasting different ways the pandemic might impact the finances.

**Meeting Theme: The 2020 Virtual Fur Ball** - Alicia Starr (lead) and Everyone

Lisa introduced Alicia Starr to the Board. Alicia walked through components of the Virtual Fur Ball, the decisions that have been made thus far, and the Fur Ball web site. Fur Ball registration and attendance are free in order to reach a broader audience. Alicia thanked Bob and Kris Conn for being the event's Virtual Technology Sponsor. The Board responded positively to the web site's layout and appearance.

Prior to the event, Board members can help with the Fur Ball by directly sharing the web site and the information posted to PAWS social media accounts, by purchasing raffle tickets, and by sponsoring the Fur Ball. Sponsorships are available until Thursday and are going well. Reenie suggested that Board members highlight silent auction items with people they know will be interested in that specific item; the silent auction may be a good way to introduce new people to the the Fur Ball who wouldn't normally purchase a ticket for the live event.

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting. Colleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

The next PAWS Board Meeting is October 27, 2020.